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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of :  
Pahl et al. :  
Application No. 10/828,650 : ON APPLICATION FOR  
Filed: April 21, 2004 : PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT  
Attorney Docket No. 04266864 :

This is in response to the APPLICATION FOR PATENT TERM ADJUSTMENT filed December 7, 2007. Applicants request that an additional 100 days of patent term adjustment be granted in addition to the 477 days provided in the Notice of Allowance mailed on September 10, 2007.

The instant application for patent term adjustment requests reconsideration of the patent term adjustment as it relates to the Office's failure to issue the patent within 3 years of the filing date. A decision is being **held in abeyance** until after the actual patent date. Knowledge of the actual date the patent issues is required to calculate the amount, if any, of additional patent term patentee is entitled to for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. See § 1.703(b).

(This is true even in this instance where a request for continued examination (RCE) was filed. The computer will not undertake the § 1.703(b) calculation until the actual date of issuance of the patent has been determined. Accordingly, it is still too soon to make a determination as to the correctness of any period of adjustment that will or will not be entered pursuant to § 1.703(b)).

Patentees are given TWO (2) MONTHS from the issue date of the patent to file a written request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment for Office failure to issue the patent within 3 years. A copy of this decision should accompany the

request. Patentees may seek such consideration without payment of an additional fee. However, as to all other bases for seeking reconsideration of the patent term adjustment indicated in the patent, all requirements of § 1.705(d) must be met. Requests for reconsideration on other bases must be timely filed and must include payment of the required fee.

Rather than file the request for reconsideration of Patent Term Adjustment at the time of the mailing of the notice of allowance, applicants are advised that they may wait until the time of the issuance of the patent and file a request for reconsideration of the patent term pursuant to 37 CFR 1.705(d). The USPTO notes that it does not calculate the amount of time earned pursuant to 37 CFR 1.702(b) until the time of the issuance of the patent and accordingly, the Office will consider any request for reconsideration of the patent term adjustment due to an error in the calculation of 37 CFR 1.702(b) to be timely if the request for reconsideration is filed within two months of the issuance of the patent.

It is acknowledged that applicants are correct that any period of adjustment will be entered in light of 35 U.S.C. 154(B) GUARANTEE OF NO MORE THAN 3-YEAR APPLICATION PENDENCY, which provides that

Subject to the limitations under paragraph (2), if the issue of an original patent is delayed due to the failure of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to issue a patent within 3 years after the actual filing date of the application in the United States, not including -

- (i) any time consumed by continued examination of the application requested by the applicant under section 132(b);

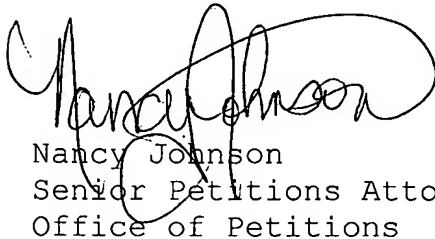
It is noted that a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) was filed in this application on July 30, 2007.

The Office acknowledges submission of the \$200.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.18(e). No additional fees are required.

The application file is being forwarded to the Office of Patent Publication for issuance of the patent. The patent term adjustment indicated on the patent (as shown on the Issue Notification mailed about three weeks prior to patent issuance)

will include any additional adjustment accrued both for Office delay in issuing the patent more than four months after payment of the issue fee and satisfaction of all outstanding requirements, and for the Office taking in excess of three years to issue the patent (to the extent that the three-year period does not overlap with periods already accorded).

Telephone inquiries specific to this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3219.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Johnson", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Nancy Johnson  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions